subsidy in Visakhapatnam as on date; and

(c) what is the amount of subsidy released by MPEDA during the financial year 1991-92?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) A total amount of Rs. 703882.50 has been sanctioned by Marine Products Export Development Authority under the export linked price reimbursement scheme on diesel oil consumed by deep sea fishing vessels based at Visakhapatnam.

(b) Under this scheme 52 vessels based at Visakhapatnam have been approved for assistance.

(c) An amount of Rs. 703882.50 has been released during financial year 1991-92.

Loss to S.T.C. in edible oil deal

*373. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Trading Corporation has incurred a loss of more than Rs. 40 crores in edible oil deals;

(b) if so, what are the details of the losses incurred during the last one year; and

(c) what are the main factors responsible for the losses and what steps are being taken to fix the responsibility therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) STC has not incurred any loss on edible oil imports. As the canalising agency, it buys at internationally competitive prices, edible oils for sale through the Public Distribution System (PDS). The issue price for PDS is decided by the Ministry of Civil Supplies & Public Distribution. Any surplus or deficit arising out of such sales is credited or debited as the case may be to the Government account on edible oils.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Interest accrued on National Saving Scheme Deposits

@*373A. SHRI GOPAL SINGH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the amount of interest accrued on N.S.S. Deposit is not paid to the Depositors on the maturity of the amount after three years;

(b) whether it is a fact that the income tax is deducted from the interest so accrued by the postal authorities at the time of payments even in cases where income tax returns are filled separately and the accounts were opened before the last budget; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) The National Savings Scheme Rules provide for crediting of interest due on the deposits in the account at the end of each financial year. Withdrawals are permitted only once in a year, provided that the amount of such withdrawal shall not exceed the balance at the end of the fourth preceding financial year, less withdrawals, if any, already made.

(b) and (c) Income Tax is deducted at the time of withdrawal, under Section 194 EE of the Income Tax Act brought through the Finance (No.2) Act, 1991 with effect from 1.10.1991. These provisions are applicable irrespective of the fact that the account holders have filed their income-tax returns separately and have opened their accounts before the last budget.

No such deductions are, however, required to be made:—

(i) where the aggregate amount of payment in a financial year is less than Rs. 2500/-, or

@Previously Starred Question 334, transferred from 13th, Dec., 1991.